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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	)	
Toru KATSUMI	)	Examiner: Unassigned
Application No.: 10/823,687	)	Group Art Unit: 2852
Filed: April 14, 2004	)	Confirmation No.: 5378
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS	)	September 2, 2004

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the patent documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (the "citation form"). The documents were recently cited in the enclosed European Search Report, which is dated August 5, 2004. A copy of the Search Report also is enclosed. Copies of the cited documents are also enclosed.

STATEMENT/PETITION/FEE

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action has not been received in the above-identified application, neither a Statement, Petition, nor payment of a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be deemed necessary in connection with

this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

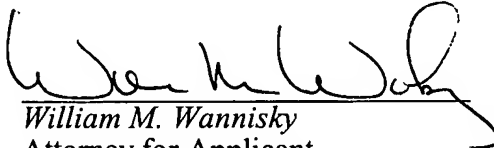
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the cited information and that an annotated copy of the citation form be returned indicating such consideration.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the New York address shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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WMW:tas

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)  Date Submitted: September 2, 2004				ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>03500.018098</b>		APPLICATION NO. <b>10/823,687</b>	
APPLICANT <b>Toru KATSUMI</b>							
FILING DATE <b>April 14, 2004</b>						GROUP <b>2852</b>	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
		5,038,177	08/06/91	Parker, et al.	355	273	
		5,296,903	03/22/94	Suzuki, et al.	355	271	
		6,223,004 B1	04/24/01	Kodama	399	44	
		6,363,228 B1	03/26/02	Ream	399	66	
		2002-0057933 A1	05/16/02	Ebihara, et al.	399	303	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
		8-202171	08/09/96	Japan			Abstract
		0 831 381 A2	03/25/98	Europe			
		2000-89530	03/31/00	Japan			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
		Patent Abstracts of Japan, Publication No. 8-202171, 08/09/96.					
		Patent Abstracts of Japan, Publication No. 2000-89530, 03/31/00.					

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.